

THE
Last Speeches and Dying Words
OF
Capt. Thomas Green,
Commander of the Ship the *Worcester*,
AND OF
Captain John Madder,
Chief Mate of the said Ship.

Published at their own Desire from the Copy which was read on the Scaffold.

*The Last Speech of Captain THOMAS GREEN, who
was Executed near Leith, April 11. 1705.*

Good People,

BEfore I die, I think it my Duty to Advertise you of many things wherewith my Enemies do asperse me and my Company. We are condemn'd as Pirates and Murderers, on a Coast far distant from this Place. Is there any of you who wants either a Friend whom we have murder'd? Or whose Goods have we taken? We have lived in this Place since *July* last, can any say we have injur'd them? And yet we pass under this Imputation of the worst of Men, without either Religion or Probity.

I was Educated in the Religion of the Church of *England*, and I die in that Faith: Aboard our Ship twice I was Commander, the Prayers and Service of the Church were read Morning and Evening; and the Setzers of the *Worcester* will find there, both Bibles and Prayer-Books. In relation to the Crimes for which I stand condemn'd, I declare that one cannot hope to see GOD in Mercy, if he die with a Lye in his Mouth: And if a Man be condemn'd to Death for a Crime, under the hazard of losing his Soul, he ought to Glorifie God by owning his Guilt, and shewing a Sincere Repentance if he be guilty.

Pursuant to which, I, in the Presence of Almighty GOD, declare to you his People, That I am innocent in Design or Deed, and Free from the Crimes for which I am condemn'd. That to my Knowledge, I never all my Life-time wrong'd Man in his Person or Goods, or had Accession thereto. What the Custom of Pirates is, I thank GOD I know not: But I understand my Accusers and Persecuters will have you to believe, that I think it unnecessary to confess before Men. Take what I say as Good Christians ought to do; if you have no Charity you wrong yourselves, and cannot hurt me.

I am told some of my Crew have confessed the Crimes, and loaded us with Guilt; this is done since Sentence, and in hope of Saving themselves, which I wish they may do by Lawful means, and not have accession to the shedding Innocent Blood. I am a Dying, these are still in hopes to Live, chuse you which of us to Believe.

As to the False Witnesses that were admitted against us, what way they have been practiced, God knows, and I hope Time will bring it to Light. As to the *Negroes*, this Country knows not their perfidious and revengeful Temper, and upon Trial it will be found, that *Antonio Ferdinando* (as he is now called) was not in our Company 48 Hours on the Coast of *Malabar*, but was taken in at *Anfange* immediately before we went to *Bengal*; and that the Sloop was lost six Weeks before ever we saw his Face. The Chirurgeon, Mr. *May's* Deposition, is much upon Hearsay; though I find he humours the Mallicious Plot more than he ought to do, for which I pray God forgive him.

The Presumptions made use of against me are, such as I could have Satisfied the Court in, had I been allowed to prove my Grounds of Exculpation; but my whole Defences were Repelled; and I gave in a particular Condescendence of the Place and Time, when and where my Cargo was laded, taken out of the Books; and it will appear, that it agrees with the Inventory, and there is not a weighing of Anchor, or the least Sailing on the other side of the Line, which was without the Supercargo's Written Orders, pursuant to my Instructions from my Owners, and these are to be found with my Papers; I shall only add this for your Information, that I went not a Roving out of the Road of our Trade and Commerce, that I never had a Gun, Shot Powder or draw a Weapon in Wrath.

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705-26 ng World to examine, if ever a Master of a Ship went a pirating for Owners or Freighters, and Returned to Europe, or to the Port from whence they came.

I must take this Occasion to Honour and Justifie a Gentleman, one of my Lawyers, who is most unjustly reproach'd by his Country-men, for assisting me against the Violence of my Persecutors: He told me six Weeks before I was imprison'd of an evil Report rais'd against me, of having murder'd Captain *Drummond* and his Crew, and robb'd his Ship, and entreated me to tell if there was any ground for that Report, and has ever since exhorted me to confess if I was guilty. But I maintain'd always, as in this Action of my Life, I declare my Innocence, and that I never knew till I came to *Scotland*, that such a Man was at Sea, so there was no occasion to harden us as has been falsely said. And if I were guilty of the Crimes I stand condemned for, I think my self bound by a publick Confession to glorifie God's Justice.

The Malice of my Enemies must be very great, that they'd have me deny'd Law-defences, and by raising false Reports to terrifie my faithful Lawyers from giving me their Assistance. I am oblig'd to that Gentleman who has patiently suffered Reproach without a Cause for my sake, and who has not been frightened from his Duty, but maugre Spite and Calumnies, maintain'd the Cause of innocent oppress'd Strangers; for which God I hope will reward him.

In the Humour of Uncharitableness, which at this time abounds, Men may think, that altho' I be free from Piracy, Robbery and Murder, yet I must needs be guilty of gross Sins, which have drawn on me on this Judgment; for God is Just in all his Doings.

For your Satisfaction please know, That I believe that no Man can free himself from Sin, which, if God's Mercy in the Merits of Jesus do not prevent, deserves Death both Temporal and Eternal. Men in a Seafaring Employment, whatever they may do to keep themselves free of gross and immoral Vices, cannot do all those Duties of Religion, that private Men and Priests have the opportunity to practise: But for my part, I bless God that I have always had a Reverence for Religion and Religious Matters; and that by his Grace I have been kept free from any gross or Unnatural Crimes, which by the Laws of Men or Societies deserve Death, or an ignominious Punishment: so I shall only Repeat the Question our Saviour made, *Were those Persons on whom the Tower of Siloam fell, greater Sinners than you are, &c.*

It's the Will of God that this befall me, and I thank his Goodness, that gives me the opportunity of dying deliberately with all due Preparation, which possibly I would not have had either at Sea, where I have been in great Danger, or in Sicknes, when Men are neither willing to think of Death, nor able to undergo a necessary Preparation for it: And seeing I could not imitate my Saviour in his Life, he has blessed me with the opportunity of following him a little at his Death, in so far as I die for Crimes I am not guilty of.

Rest satisfied and assured that ere long you shall know the Mistake this Nation has run into in our Case, when the Truth will not help us.

I forgive all Men, and desire to die in Charity with you all, requesting your Prayers to God for my poor Soul. I bid you and the World farewell. *Sic Subscribitur.*

Thomas Green.

The Last SPEECH of Captain John Madder, Chief Mate of the VVorcester.

"I Here declare in the Presence of God, and before all these People, my Auditors and Spectators, that I, nor any of Capt. *Green's* Crew, never committed Piracy, Robbery, or Murder, or had Accession thereto in our whole Voyage. Nor I at any other Time during my Life, upon any sort of Ships, Boats or Barks, or any other thing that moved on the Water, of any sort of Language, Nation, or People, whether *Europian, Asian, African, or American, or of Scots, English or Dutch*, if the Words of a dying Man may be believed, by giving of his Solemn Oath, in the Presence of God, and all these People; which Oath all Christians may think and be sure of, that I would not step into Eternity with a Lye in my Mouth, and if I did, there would be no Remission for my Immortal Soul from my Great and Omnipotent Judge and Saviour, by whom I hope, by unfeigned Repentance, I shall be Saved.

"My Oath is such, here I Swear in the Presence of God, and before all these People, nothing but what is Truth, as I must Answer before my Impartial Judge, when call'd to Account at the Great Day, if I be guilty of these False and Calumnious Accusations that I am Condemn'd for, *viz.* Piracy, Robbery and Murder; may the Great God of Heaven and Earth, that Minute my Immortal Soul departs from my Body, cause it to be thrown into utter Darkness, where there is nothing but Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth. But as I'm Innocent of these False and Calumnious Accusations that I'm Condemn'd for, I trust in my Great and Merciful God, by the Mediation and Intercession of my Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, on whose Merits I Confide and Relie, will Graciously Pardon all my other Sins committed in my Life Time, whether of Omission or Commission, or Thought, Word, and Deed, which are all known to him who is Omniscient; for there is nothing hid from him, with whom have to do. And God knows, and I hope due Time will discover the Practices of some Persons, who have been at great Pains and Zeal to Cheat us out of our Lives by False and Perjur'd Witnesses, which I appeal to God to be true; and I am Innocent, and Innocent Blood will call for Vengeance on them that is the Cause of shedding it. God Forgive them, and I forgive them. Farewel.

John Madder.

James Simpson, Gunner to the said Ship, Executed with the said Capt. Green and John Madder, left no written Speech behind him.

Sold by B. Bragg, at the Blue Ball in Ave-Mary Lane. 1705.

The Full Trial of Capt. Green and his Crew, sold by B. Bragg.